

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of operating a poker game, said method comprising:

- (a) receiving an initial wager from a player;
- (b) dealing a hand to a player including a first plurality of cards from a deck of cards;
- (c) dealing a second plurality of cards to the player from the deck of cards, said cards dealt face-down to the player;
- (d) enabling the player to end the poker game or purchase one of the second plurality of cards to add to the player's hand for an additional wager, and
- (e) repeating (d) until the player ends the poker game or until there are no remaining cards in the second plurality of cards for the player to purchase, if wherein each time the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand, adding one of the cards from the second plurality of cards is added to the player's hand without regard to any of the cards already in the player's hand and such that the quantity of cards in the player's hand increases; and
- (f) ~~repeating step (d) until the player ends the poker game or until there are no remaining cards in the second plurality of cards for the player to purchase, and upon either event when the player ends the poker game or when there are no cards remaining in the second plurality of cards for the player to purchase, evaluating the cards in the player's hand including all of the purchased second plurality of cards and providing an award to the player if the player's hand includes a winning combination of cards.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, ~~wherein step (b) which~~ includes dealing at least one of the first plurality of cards in the hand face-up to the player.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of Claim 2, ~~wherein step (d) which~~ includes displaying the added one of the cards face-up to the player if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, ~~wherein step (b) which~~ includes dealing a plurality of the first plurality of cards in the hand face-up to the player.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of Claim 4, ~~wherein step (d) which~~ includes displaying the added one of the cards face-up to the player if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 6 (currently amended I): The method of Claim 1, ~~wherein step (b) which~~ includes dealing all of the first plurality of cards in the hand face-up to the player.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of Claim 6, ~~wherein step (d) which~~ includes displaying the added one of the cards face-up to the player if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, ~~wherein step (d) which~~ includes enabling the player to select which of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 9 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the first plurality of cards and the second plurality of cards each include a same number of the cards.

Claim 10 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is greater than the additional wager for the previous purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards.

Claim 11 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is equal to a total amount wagered in the poker game prior to said purchase.

Claim 12 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is equal to 2^n times the initial wager, wherein $n = 0$ for a first one of the purchased cards and increases by one for each additional purchased card.

Claim 13 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the deck of cards includes a standard deck of 52 cards and the winning combination of cards include at least one of the results selected from the group consisting of: a pair of aces, two pairs, three-of-a-kind, a straight, a flush, a full house, four-of-a-kind, a straight flush and a royal flush.

Claim 14 (original): The method of Claim 1, which is operated via a data network.

Claim 15 (original): The method of Claim 14, wherein the data network is an internet.

Claim 16 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the cards are virtual and are displayed by a display device of a gaming machine.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A memory device which stores computer instructions for implementing steps-(a) to ~~(e)~~ (f) of the method of Claim 1.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of operating a poker game, said method comprising:

- (a) receiving an initial wager from a player;
- (b) dealing a hand to a player including a first plurality of cards from a deck of cards;
- (c) enabling the player to end the poker game or purchase one of a second plurality of cards to add to the player's hand for an additional wager, wherein the number of second plurality of cards is predetermined, and ~~if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand, adding one of the cards from the second plurality of cards to the hand; and~~
- (d) ~~repeating step (c) until the player ends the poker game or until there are no remaining cards in the second plurality of cards for the player to purchase, wherein each time the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards, one of the cards from the second plurality of cards is added to the player's hand without regard to the cards already in the player's hand and such that the quantity of cards in the player's hand increases; and~~
- (e) ~~upon either event when the player ends the poker game or when there are no cards remaining in the second plurality of cards,~~ evaluating the cards in the player's hand including all of the purchased ~~second plurality of cards~~ and providing an award to the player if the player's hand includes a winning combination of cards.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of Claim 18, ~~wherein step (b) which~~ includes dealing at least one of the first plurality of cards in the hand face-up to the player.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method of Claim 19, ~~wherein step (e) which~~ includes displaying the added one of the cards face-up to the player if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of Claim 18, ~~wherein step (b)~~ which includes dealing a plurality of the first plurality of cards in the hand face-up to the player.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of Claim 21, ~~wherein step (c)~~ which includes displaying the added one of the cards face-up to the player if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The method of Claim 18, ~~wherein step (b)~~ which includes dealing all of the first plurality of cards in the hand face-up to the player.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method of Claim 23, ~~wherein step (c)~~ which includes displaying the added one of the cards face-up to the player if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method of Claim 18, ~~wherein step (c)~~ which includes enabling the player to select which of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 26 (original): The method of Claim 18, wherein the first plurality of cards and the second plurality of cards each include a same number of the cards.

Claim 27 (original): The method of Claim 18, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is greater than the additional wager for the previous purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards.

Claim 28 (original): The method of Claim 18, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is equal to a total amount wagered in the poker game prior to said purchase.

Claim 29 (original): The method of Claim 18, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is equal to

2^n times the initial wager, wherein $n = 0$ for a first one of the purchased cards and increases by one for each additional purchased card.

Claim 30 (original): The method of Claim 18, wherein the deck of cards includes a standard deck of 52 cards and the winning combination of cards include at least one of the results selected from the group consisting of: a pair of aces, two pairs, three-of-a-kind, a straight, a flush, a full house, four-of-a-kind, a straight flush and a royal flush.

Claim 31 (original): The method of Claim 18, which is operated via a data network.

Claim 32 (original): The method of Claim 31, wherein the data network is an internet.

Claim 33 (original): The method of Claim 18, wherein the cards are virtual and are displayed by a display device of a gaming machine.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A memory device which stores computer instructions for implementing steps (a) to ~~(d)~~(e) of the method of Claim 18.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A method of operating a poker game, said method comprising:

- (a) receiving an initial wager from a player;
- (b) dealing a hand face-up to a player including a first plurality of cards from a standard deck of 52 cards;
- (c) dealing a second plurality of cards face-down to the player from the deck of cards;
- (d) enabling the player to end the poker game or purchase one of the second plurality of cards to add to the player's hand for an additional wager, ~~and if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand, displaying to the player and adding one of the cards from the second plurality of cards to the hand, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is greater than the additional wager for the previous purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards; and~~
- ~~(f)-(e)~~ repeating step (d) until the player ends the poker game or until there are no remaining cards in the second plurality of cards for the player to purchase, wherein each time the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards, one of the second plurality of cards is displayed to the player and added to the player's hand without regard to the cards already in the player's hand and such that the quantity of cards in the player's hand increases, and wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is greater than the additional wager for the previous purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards; and
- (f) ~~upon either event when the player ends the poker game or when there are no remaining cards in the second plurality of cards for the player to purchase,~~ evaluating the cards in the player's hand including all of the purchased second plurality of cards, and providing an award to the player if the player's hand includes a winning combination of symbols.

Claim 36 (original): The method of Claim 35, wherein the first plurality of cards and the second plurality of cards each include a same number of the cards.

Claim 37 (original): The method of Claim 35, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is equal to a total amount wagered in the poker game prior to said purchase.

Claim 38 (original): The method of Claim 35, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is equal to 2^n times the initial wager, wherein $n = 0$ for a first one of the purchased cards and increases by one for each additional purchased card.

Claim 39 (original): The method of Claim 35, which is operated via a data network.

Claim 40 (original): The method of Claim 39, wherein the data network is an internet.

Claim 41 (original): The method of Claim 35, wherein the cards are virtual and are displayed by a display device of a gaming machine.

Claim 42 (currently amended): A memory device which stores computer instructions for implementing steps (a) to ~~(e)~~(f) of the method of Claim 35.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A method of operating a poker game comprising:

(a) dealing randomly a hand of cards including a plurality of cards from a standard deck of 52 cards face-up to a player;

(b) enabling the player to sequentially purchase a plurality of additional cards one at a time to add to the player's hand, wherein the purchase of each additional card increases sequentially in cost; and

(c) each time the player purchases one of the additional cards, adding said purchased additional card to the player's hand, without regard to the cards already in the player's hand, such that the quantity of cards in the player's hand increases; and

~~(e)-(d)~~ when the player chooses not to purchase any of the or more of the plurality of additional cards or if no more additional cards remain to purchase, evaluating the player's hand including any ~~all of the~~ purchased additional cards for winning combinations ~~if the player does not want to purchase any of the or more of the plurality of additional cards or if no more additional cards remain to purchase~~, and providing an award to the player for the highest value winning combination in ~~said the player's~~ hand of cards.

~~43.~~ Claim 44 (currently amended): The method of Claim 43, wherein the cost ~~wager~~ for each sequential purchase of the additional card is equal to a total amount wagered in the poker game prior to said purchase.

~~44.~~ Claim 45 (currently amended): The method of Claim 43, wherein the cost for each sequential purchase of the additional card is equal to 2^n times an initial wager, wherein $n = 0$ for a first one of the additional cards and increases by one for each additional card.

~~45.~~ Claim 46 (currently amended): The method of Claim 43, which is operated via a data network.

46. Claim 47 (currently amended): The method of Claim 45, wherein the data network is an internet.

47. Claim 48 (currently amended): The method of Claim 43, wherein the cards are virtual and are displayed by a display device of a gaming machine.

48. Claim 49 (currently amended): A memory device which stores computer instructions for implementing steps (a) to ~~(e)~~ (d) of the method of Claim 43.